

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

December 19, 1981

[REDACTED]

POLAND: Increased Food Supplies

[REDACTED] the regime is now attempting to flood the state markets in Warsaw with meat and other basic foodstuffs, probably in an attempt to placate consumers. [REDACTED]

State stores were at least temporarily better supplied than private markets, and good quality meat, dairy products, coffee, and chocolate were available late in the week. The government may have depleted government or military food reserves or have arranged for extra deliveries from other CEMA countries. East Germany started to ship foodstuffs and clothing to Poland this week. [REDACTED]

Although the market situation has temporarily improved, supplies of many food items will remain tight. Meat supplies are 40 percent below the inadequate level of last December, and there is 20 percent less fish. Stores selling clothing and handicrafts are virtually empty. [REDACTED]

In addition to easing discontent over martial law, Warsaw also probably wanted to stop panic buying that mounted in the markets earlier this week when even bread was unavailable. The new food stocks probably will be exhausted in a short time. The other CEMA countries have their own sizable consumer needs and cannot provide large-scale food aid to Poland. [REDACTED]

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